

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-32 (canceled).

33. (new) A receiver apparatus for receiving a program and outputting it to other apparatuses, comprising:

an output circuit for outputting said program to said other apparatus; and

a control circuit for controlling an output of said output circuit, so as to manage a number of said other apparatuses, through which the program can be viewed or recorded simultaneously,

wherein said control circuit restricts the number of said other apparatuses, to which said output circuit provides the output, to be less than or equal to a predetermined number.

34. (new) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 33, wherein said control circuit provides no program to the other apparatuses other than that, to which the control circuit is outputting at present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which the control circuit is outputting at present is equal to said predetermined number.

35. (new) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 34, wherein said control circuit gives notice to the other apparatus, to which said program is not being output, that no program is to be output through said output circuit.

36. (new) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 33, further comprising:

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an input circuit for inputting a command from said other apparatuses,
wherein said input circuit inputs an outputting requirement for said program from said other apparatuses.

37. (new) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 33, wherein said control circuit interrupts an output to one set of the other apparatuses, to which the control circuit is outputting at present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which the control circuit is outputting at present is equal to said predetermined number.

38. (new) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 33, wherein the number of the other apparatuses, through which the program can be viewed or recorded simultaneously, is determined based on a receiving contract between a provider of said program.

39. (new) An information output apparatus for outputting Audio Visual (AV) data to other apparatuses, comprising:

an output circuit for outputting said data to said other apparatuses; and
a control circuit for controlling an output of said output circuit, so as to manage
a number of said other apparatuses, through which the program can be viewed or
recorded simultaneously,

wherein said control circuit restricts the number of said other apparatuses, to
which said output circuit provides the output, to be less than or equal to a
predetermined number.

40. (new) An information output apparatus as defined in the claim 39,
wherein said control circuit provides no data to the other apparatuses other than that,
to which the control circuit is outputting at present, when the number of the other
apparatuses to which the control circuit is outputting at present is equal to said
predetermined number.

41. (new) An information output apparatus as defined in the claim 40,
wherein said control circuit gives notice to the other apparatuses, to which no data is
being output, that no data is to be output, through said output circuit.

42. (new) An information output apparatus as defined in the claim 39,
further comprising:

an input circuit for inputting a command from said other apparatuses,
wherein said input circuit inputs an outputting requirement for said data from
said other apparatuses.

43. (new) An information output apparatus as defined in the claim 39, wherein said control circuit interrupts an output to one set of the other apparatuses, to which the control circuit is outputting at present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which the control circuit is outputting at present is equal to said predetermined number.

44. (new) An information output method for outputting Audio Visual (AV) data to other apparatuses, comprising the following steps of:

managing a number of said other apparatuses, through which said data can be viewed or recorded simultaneously; and

61 restricting the number of said other apparatuses, to which the data is output, to be less than or equal to a predetermined number.

45. (new) An information output method as defined in the claim 44, wherein no data is provided to the other apparatuses other than that, to which data is being output at present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which data is being output at present is equal to said predetermined number.

46. (new) An information output method as defined in the claim 45, wherein a notice is given to the other apparatuses, to which no data is being output, that no data is to be output.